



ARENA REPORT



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Hello again people and welcome to another issue of "AR". Starting with this issue we will no longer allow any writing about out of the ring brawling, wrestlers using the ringposts, and no blading on these pages either. Just a little pun there about Watts' "ten commandments". A little schedule note if you will. There will be an issue published in two weeks dated 6/29. I'll be going on vacation to New England from 7/2-7/12 so the issue after 6/29 will be 7/20. There will be a three week break between issues instead of two. While up north I plan on catching John McAdam and Jody Boynes's UCW promotion and see what all my compatriots are going nuts over in New Hampshire. Before going to the special editorial let me preface it by saying that I rarely spout my views on subjects (other than "Ramblings" of course) and I'm just giving my opinions. Doesn't mean I'm right or wrong so if you disagree, don't call for a public lynching.

Arena Report is published bi-weekly at the cost of 1.00 per issue. All renewals, letters, and match results may be sent to Arena Report, P.O. Box 952547, Lake Mary, FL 32795-2547. Thanks for reading gang.

THE STEINERS - WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS?

by Ron Lemieux

I've been sitting back the last couple of weeks reading and listening to fans talking about the Steiners and how they wouldn't mind seeing Terry Gordy and Steve Williams teach them a lesson. HOLD THE PHONE!!! Now I don't agree with what the Steiners did to Iizuka. (Although Scott Steiner did tell Linda Ruffa that the move that busted him up was an accident.) My beef with the Steiners in their match at Wrestle War wasn't their stiffness but that they wouldn't give Fujinami and Iizuka anything.

Now hardcores are heralding Gordy and Williams as the ones to "teach the Steiners a lesson." Two points need to be made here. Why do Gordy and Williams have legit tough guy images? Is it because Doc can bench press so many hundred pounds? No. Is it because Doc was a good amateur wrestler? No. (So was Mike Rotunda and is he looked at among hardcores as tough?) Is it because Gordy beat up eight guys in a bar by himself? No. It never happened. The reason they are looked at as legit tough guys is because they are stiff in the ring. The same characteristics the Steiners are getting ripped for. Please don't paint Gordy and Williams as being saints. Let's go circa 1986 in the Dallas Sportatorium where I sat front row and watched Gordy annihilate jobber Mike Reed. It was taped for TV. Go back and see if you can find it. While you're looking, look for the match from Power Pro taped in Ft. Worth of Dr. Death nailing Art Crews with some of the stiffest clotheslines you'll ever see. I was front row for that also and believe me they were just as devastating as any Steiner squash I've seen.

The second point is that the four get along outside the ring. The match at Beach Blast is sure to be stiff but that's because that's their styles. So don't go thinking there is a shoot going on. They'll work well and stiff together and probably go out for a beer together after. (Oh, forgot, that's a "commandment" too)

One last thought I'd like to leave you with. If the Steiners had done to Diamond Dallas Page what they did to Iizuka, would there have been such an uproar? I highly doubt it. As a matter of fact, I bet many of you would be laughing about it. But since it was the japs, it's a different story. That's just my opinion.....

LIVE REPORT

Tampa Sportatorium (ICWA)

Tampa, FL

June 11, 1992

1) Mark Starr beat Hurricane Walker in 19:11. Starr hit Walker low with a roll of beads. He broke one of Watts' laws. Oops. Wrong promotion. One decent sequence and one good corner bump by Walker. Adds up to a dud. 2) Coconut Man retained his lightweight title beating Brady Boone with a foreign object in 18:52. Good action in this one. A very scary moment occurred when Coconut was outside the ring and Boone came under the ropes with a dropkick knocking Coco into the front row and sending a 3 month old baby through the bleachers. Luckily the baby was okay but unbelievably the parents stayed. Who

would bring a baby that small to wrestling anyway. ** 3) Dick Slater over Pat Tanaka via count out in 9:47. This was for Slater's ICWA title. A very disappointing match. Neither did a thing. Expected usually from Slater but not Tanaka who is the booker for this group. Slater must be campaigning for a job with WCW as he had his old Mid-South jacket on. 1/2* 4) Star Riders over The Terminators via DQ for who knows why in 23:50. 1/4* NOTES: Probably the worst ICWA card I've seen...Only 4 bouts and all but the Slater-Tanaka match went way too long....Combined with 90 degree heat and no air conditioning in this "barn", it was one fun time.

RAMBLINGS

There's a good possibility that we'll see all three WWF titles change at SummerSlam in London. The card was announced this past Tuesday. Ultimate Warrior will meet Randy Savage, Legion of Doom oppose DiBiase & Rotunda, and Bret Hart will meet Davey Boy Smith. I have to think that if the card was in the states that Davey Boy wouldn't be getting the title shot never mind winning the title. Hulk Hogan nor Papa Shango are on the card at this time although it's been said if the card doesn't look like a sellout they'll add the bout but it looks like it'll sell out with no problem....I guess you could call it exposing the business but I don't believe that can happen anymore. But I received an advanced copy of the new WCW magazine with an ad on the back cover for the Bash PPV listing the 8 teams that advanced at the Clash. Problem is the Clash hasn't happened as I type this. Now I know that Apter subscribers get the maga a week or two before they go to newstands so all the WCW subs got it already. What's even funnier is that the mag is set for newstands on the 16th which is the day of the Clash. Wouldn't it be hilarious if they were selling the issue in Charleston the night of the Clash? Unless Watts throws us a swerve, here are the results for this coming Tuesday: Liger & Pillman over Benoit & Wellington, Steamboat & Koloff over Malenkos, Steiners over Perez & Ricky Santana, Gordy & Williams beat the O'Days, Rude & Austin over Bagwell & Zenk, Rhodes & Windham beat Eaton & Anderson, Hase & Nogami over Head Hunters, and Silver Kings over the Freebirds. (If Watts swerves it may be here as he'll have the Birds beat the team from Mexico which would be a sin.). This sets up a very good second round with Silver Kings vs. Hase & Nogami, Gordy & Williams vs. Steamboat & Koloff, Windham & Rhodes vs. Rude & Austin, and Steiners vs. Liger & Pillman. But like I said, since Watts knows the mag let this out, he may change some results from the first round. Let's hope not.....Big Van Vader blew out his knee on 6/13 in Alexandria, LA in a bout vs. Sting. At press time it wasn't known how long he'll be out but he couldn't walk on it that night.....Looks like the WWF PPV bombed on Saturday night. I was told that if it did, it was likely that the group would fold before the end of the year. There is a lot of bitterness on the part of the wrestlers as the bodybuilders are on guaranteed contracts and most of that money is money that the WWF guys have made for Vince. McMahon proved that policies good for the WWF (should say business practices) are good for the WWF. It appears that Lex Luger broke his arm in a motorcycle accident about 2-3 weeks ago but it was kept quiet because Vince was worried it would hurt what buyrate he would get. So on the PPV, they did an interview from Luger's bed in the hospital and said he crashed on the way to the show. McMahon strikes again..... Larry Sharpe will be moving to Tampa in the next couple of weeks. Conflicting stories as to what he'll do as he initially was going to be involved with the ICWA since his Monster Factory is run in the Sportatorium. Some sources say his talks with them broke down and he'll run in opposition. Like there aren't enough groups in Florida already.....Speaking of which, another group has popped up down here as a group billing themselves as United World Wrestling has a card on 6/26 in Winter Garden with Kevin Sullivan teaming with the Brutalizers (Scott Allen & Randy Star) vs. Rick Ryder, Tyree Pride, & Hillbilly Bruce. A couple of names also on the bill that hardcores in Callahan, FL will remember are the Candy Man & Casey Thompson.....ICWA will be taping their first TV on 6/18 in Tampa. Don't think they have an outlet yet though.....UCW in Nashua, NH drew 200 on 6/12 as Bill Wilcox kept the UCW belt by beating Phil Apollo via DQ in which ref Scott Dickinson took a record number of bumps. Freight Train Fulton also won a battle royal for the TV title. What is this Jody the AWA?.....NWF returns to Houma, LA on 6/21 with the regular crew plus Abdullah the Butcher & Kevin Sullivan. Speaking of the NWF, I received a tape with some of their shows and I enjoyed them. Buck Robley runs the group and it's very similar to Jim Cornette's Smoky Mountain group. What a surprise it was to see Terry Funk doing the color commentary as I hadn't heard he was doing it. A couple notes from watching both Robley and Cornette's tapes is that it is too bad that Bob Holly decided to quit wrestling because the kid had tons of promise. Cornette's group reminds me of the old Continental shows we saw on FNN when Gilbert was booking. The highlights besides the good quality of wrestling is the commentary by both Cornette and Dutch Mantell. One of the low points is that I haven't seen a babyface that can do an interview yet. At one point they had Brian Lee, Tim Horner, and Robert Gibson all with Bob Caudle and all three couldn't make one good interview. Call me old fashioned

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SCOTT HUDSON'S.....

GEORGIA WRESTLING JOURNAL

NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY Lawrenceville, Georgia (06-13-92): 1. The Condor over Brad Blaze with a "pilebomb" in 17:30 of a restart after a 15:00 draw DUD..2. Mad Dog Joe over Pitmaster Vic Roze after Joe used the bone in 8:30 3/4*..3. Cougar Buchanan over Rob Wilson with a phantom finish in 5:00 -**..4. Mike Baddness over Candyman Carl Church in 11:00 1/2*..5. Joey Maggs over The Nightstalker with a roll-up in 16:30 *..6. Brute Forcz over The Blazers when Jammer pinned Ray Lloyd after using the chair in 12:00 *1/4..

NEWS AND NOTES: This show saw the long-rumored heel turn of my former GWF and ESPN broadcast partner Craig Johnson (Jon Horton). Johnson, the show's ring announcer and booker, had been doing a subtle heel turn all night but actually turned during the ring intro's to the fourth match when he glommed Church with an Atlanta Braves batting helmet. Johnson also debuted as the manager of the heel tag team Brute Forcz in the main event in full leather regalia. He got good heat throughout the show..The card was put on by the Southland Wrestling Alliance..**ATT:** 81. 07-17 is the return date.

NORTH GEORGIA WRESTLING CENTER Alpharetta, Georgia (06-07-92) NGWA TV TAPINGS FOR AIR 06-13 THROUGH 07-11. (06-13): Scott Studd over Golden Ram..Randy Rose over The Southern Assassin..The Convicts over Tommy Adams & Bob French..Festus over Tim Strong..(06-20): Jailhouse Rocker over The Intruder..The Highwayman over Golden Ram..Randy Rose over Mike Brown..The Punisher over Tommy Adams..(06-27): The Convicts over Bob French & Mike Roberts..The Magnificent One over Lee Thomas..Festus & Steve Lawler over Scott Studd & Tim Strong..Mike Curevich over Scott Case..(07-04): Randy Rose over Tim Strong..The Punisher over Mike Roberts..The Magnificents over Lee Thomas & Jailhouse Rocker..Festus & Steve Lawler over The Intruder & Scott Case..(07-11): TA Golden over Scott Studd..The Convicts over Festus & Steve Lawler..The Highwayman over Bob French..**NEWS AND NOTES:**

(06-13) The highlight here was the departure of long-time heel manager Diana Hemsley, who has left the promotion. She appeared here to be led away by "agents" to a waiting Forsyth County Sheriff's car..(06-20) Ray Lloyd, 1/2 of The Blazers tag team debuted under a hood as The Punisher. The idea is that Punisher shaves the heads of jobbers after they have knocked out by the Shininnomake. Unfortunately, Lloyd had the clippers given to him upside down, so, instead of shaving the jobber's head, he merely succeeded in combing his hair into a pompadour..(06-27) The Magnificent One (Glen Gilbertnetti) and The Magnificent Two (Bob Bennett) swapped off during Gilbertnetti's single match to get the victory and to set up the return tag team match for the next week..(07-04) Uneventful..(07-11) The Convicts victory came when their manager, Danny Dees, used the stun gun..Curevich remains the Georgia Heavyweight Champion while Festus holds the TV strap..I did play-by-play with color provided by TBS behind-the-scener Steve Johnson. Steve Prazak is serving a "5 week suspension". **ATT:** 90

THE OMNI Atlanta, Georgia (06-07-92): 1. Ron Simmons won a 20-man Battle Royal..2. Barry Windham over Big Josh in 8:00 *..3. The Super Invader over Jimmy Garvin in 6:00 DUD..4. Dustin Rhodes over Bobby Eaton in 11:00 *1/2..5. Scott Stein-

er over The Great Mutha in 14:00 **1/2..6. Nikita Koloff over Vinnie Vegas in 4:00 1/2*..7. Ron Simmons over Arn Anderson in 5:00 *..8. Rick Rude over Rick Steamboat in 21:00 **..9. Sting over Steve Austin in 13:00 **1/2..

NEWS AND NOTES: Sting vs. Anderson headlines the return on 07-05. So, why was Arn buried

on this show?! Gofigure. **ATT:** 2000. Later on

THE LAST WORD...

Now level with me. When you first heard that Randy Savage and Miss Elizabeth had separated and you heard that she was living with a wealthy boyfriend, did you think (even for just one second) that the Ric Flair angle was a shoot and that Liz had taken a ride on Space Mountain? Please be honest.

THUMB ANGLES

The temperature is breaking records for heat, my house almost burned down, and now we shall see if anything I say this month will light a fire under your respective butts.

The purpose of this column is to indicate what I think and what I feel ! The only reason that "AR" chief Ron Lemieux knew who the hell I was or wanted me to write a column for "AR" is because Dave Meltzer printed numerous letters of mine in the Wrestling Observer Newsletter. I will honestly admit that for the longest time I did not feel at ease writing a column. I felt and continue to feel that my forte is the short (but kind of out-of-kilter) statement. But with each passing month I feel better about writing a column. I am not going to waste my time or energies spouting off drivel just to "go with the flow" of certain editors, columnists, or readers. If you want to read the same-o, same-o "stuff", then take it elsewhere. The death of Sam Kinison has convinced me more than ever that it can all be over in the blink of an eye. I personally would rather go down for the count as an off center eccentric anyway than be part of the "in crowd". Having said all that let us move to our favorite subject.

The WWF is stupid and moronic. How can I say that you say ? I say it because I am past the age of puberty and I cannot imagine anyone over the age of 12 or 13 admitting to liking their "product". That's who their product is geared towards, children and pre-pubescent. Don't get me wrong they do have a handful of very talented wrestlers (Flair, DiBiase, Michaels, the Hart Bros) but how often do these guys really work ? It is not necessary in the WWF to be a good wrestler. All you WWF fans can enjoy your vomit and ooze acts I outgrew that type of fun when I could get my hands on girls. I would love to see any and all of the aforementioned wrestlers on a regular basis in a different promotion. I must add Randy Savage, Roddy Piper, and Curt Hennig to the list (if they have anything left or would have the desire to put forth some effort). F.Y.I. I make myself watch an hour of WWF Superstars each week. Ya can't comment on it if you don't know what's going on. I watch it but I don't like it.

Up until two months ago I would have said without a doubt that my favorite promotion was New Japan Pro Wrestling. Please note I said was. Having once again gained a source for the All Japan Womens Promotion, New Japan drops down to second place. Last year before the Superbrawl weekend I had a friend of mine airbrush me a Manami Toyota t-shirt. I proudly wore it the evening we all went to the outdoor indy show. Three people (Dave Meltzer, Jeff Bowdren, and Greg Goode) knew who she was. With hardcore wrestling fans from all over the country at every turn, none indicated or spoke up as to knowing that this woman was the Ric Flair of womens wrestlers. If she had been born a man Atsuhin Liger would pale in comparison. If all you know of Japanese women wrestlers is the Jumping Bomb Angels or stories of Dump Matsumoto you owe yourself the extreme pleasure of watching an All Japan Womens tape. From the sheer brutality of Bull Nakano versus Aja Kong, the action is so fast and so beautiful, it literally takes my breath away. If you can't get a source contact me (c/o Arena Report) we will work out a deal. I feel like a new-born Christian sharing the word of God.

To close I want to thank John Herron, Butch (yeah right) Bigelow, Eric Krol, and Steve Yohe for commenting on my previous column. Your comments (while not of a positive nature) were nevertheless both appreciated and contemplated.

End of the line for me gang, time to wave goodbye to

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K2ON

 CORRESPONDENT'S CORNER

Route 30 Market Place (WWA) Clementon, NJ May 30, 1992
 Correspondent: Chuck Langerman

1) Lord of Darkness pinned Bobby Knight. 2) Cry Baby Waldo won by DQ over C.N. Red. 3) Bobby Sims beat Chris "The Edge" Evans. 4) Chris Candido retained his WWA Junior Title pinning Barry Hardy. 5) South American Cartel over Victor Rivera, Jr. & Mr. Nice to retain the WWA tag belts. 6) Boy Gone Bad (Joe Daniels) won the WWA title from The Spider using brass knucks that were given to him by his valet Amy Lee.

Greenwood Civic Center (WCW) Greenwood, SC June 6, 1992
 Correspondent: Danny Parris

1) Johnny B. Badd & Marcus Bagwell beat Richard Morton & Scotty Flamingo in 14:18. *3/4 2) Super Invader over Tom Zenk in 9:57. -*** 3) Barry Windham pinned Greg Valentine in 12:28. *1/2 4) Nikita Koloff downed Larry Zbyszko in 8:08. * 5) Sting & Ricky Steamboat over Rick Rude & Steve Austin in 15:52. ** 6) Steiner Brothers beat Arn Anderson & Bobby Eaton in 7:54. ** ATT: 1,1

Mascotte Ball Field (IWF) Mascotte, FL June 6, 1992
 Correspondent: Matt Langley

1) Randy Fuller and Kevin Catlyn went to a double count out. 2) Firecat (Brad Boone) downed Denny Brown. 3) Chubby M.C. squished Kevin Catlyn (sub for departed Cliff Anderson). 4) The Longriders retained their IWF tag straps turning back the Nuclear Assassins. 5) Black Jack Mulligan beat Possessor to keep his IWF title. ATT: 100

Boston Garden (WWF) Boston, MA June 7, 1992
 Correspondent: Louie Fortuna

1) Jim Powers powerslammed Brooklyn Brawler in 10:12. 2) The Mountie downed Sgt. Slaughter via count out in 3:35. 3) The Convict beat Virgil in 5:05 with a sleeper and then destroyed Virg afterwards. 4) Randy Savage beat Ric Flair in 14:44 on a reverse decision as Flair had pinned Randy but was caught with knucks. 5) Tito Santana pinned Kato in 12:47. 6) Undertaker tombstoned Berzerker in 7:52 and then added a piledriver to Fuji once the bout was over. 7) Legion of Doom beat Beverly Brothers in 10:40. ATT: 6,000

East Park Recreation Center (NWF) Houma, LA June 7, 1992
 Correspondent: Ken Verret

1) Steve Pritchard & Joey Maggs defeated Ken Massey & Handsome Johnny Rose. 2) Butch Reed beat The Nightstalker. 3) Manny Fernandez over Steve Ray. 4) Chris Adams and Eli the Eliminator were both counted out. 5) Paul Orndorff beat Ron Powers. 6) Junkyard Dog beat Bob Orton via count out. ATT: 250

Miami Arena (WWF) Miami, FL June 8, 1992
 Correspondent: Dave Flaherty

1) Mountie beat Sgt. Slaughter via count out. * 2) Convict destroyed Virgil. * 3) Legion of Doom beat Beverly Brothers when Hawk used the top rope clothesline on Beau. * 4) Undertaker beat Berzerker with a tombstone. * 5) Jim Powers pinned Brooklyn Brawler after a powerslam. -* 6) El Matador hooked Kato. * 7) Randy Savage beat Ric Flair in the same finish as Boston. As a matter of fact from what I understand, they should have just sent a video of the Boston' card here as everything was the same. ** ATT: 3,000

Beckley Arena (SMW) Beckley, WV June 6, 1992
 Correspondent: Leonard Sims

1) Hector Guerrero over Killer Kyle. 2) Danny Davis beat Dutch Mantell. 3) Robert Gibson pinned Joe Cazana. 4) Buddy Landell pinned Tim Horner in a \$5,000 challenge match. 5) Brian Lee retained his Smoky Mountain title by beating Dirty White Boy Tony Anthony via DQ. 6) Heavenly Bodies (Stan Lane & Tom Pritchard) over Batten Twins in a return no DQ bout when Jim Cornette interfered, ATT: 200

READER PROFILES

NAME: PAT CAMPBELL

OCCUPATION: Housekeeper

BORN: July 13, 1951 Creston, Iowa

WHAT 3 WORDS DESCRIBE YOU BEST: The Wrestling Fan

DREAM VACATION: Chicago

THINGS YOU CAN DO WITHOUT: Soap operas

WHOM IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE DINNER WITH: Dave Meltzer,

MOVIE YOU COULD SEE ANYTIME: "It's A Mad, Mad Mad, Mad World" Steve Beverly, Wade Keller

3 THINGS THAT CAN ALWAYS BE FOUND IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR: light, shelves, food

WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE: Bill Otten

WHAT TV SHOW DO YOU NEVER MISS: WFTV Channel 9 News

FAVORITE WRESTLING MOMENT: All the funny stuff and good matches.

NAME: DANNY PARRIS

OCCUPATION: Piggly Wiggly Grocery Store Full time (I do whatever they tell me.)

BORN: Dec. 28, 1968 Spartanburg, SC

WHAT 3 WORDS DESCRIBE YOU BEST: shy, quiet, outspoken

DREAM VACATION: Hawaii

THINGS YOU CAN DO WITHOUT: arrogant people

WHOM IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE DINNER WITH: Deidre Hall or Kirstie Alley

MOVIE YOU COULD SEE ANYTIME: "Stripes"

3 THINGS THAT CAN ALWAYS BE FOUND IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR: hamburger, cheese, ham

WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE: Probably some ugly shit like Uncle Fester

WHAT TV SHOW DO YOU NEVER MISS: Unsolved Mysteries

FAVORITE WRESTLING MOMENT: Watching any bouts of Bob Backlund when he was WWF champ. I recall him giving John Studd a backdrop. I was amazed as I watched him on WWF's USA network show.

NAME: ROB NEWLAND

OCCUPATION: Telemarketer

BORN: June 12, 1967 Long Island, NY

WHAT 3 WORDS DESCRIBE YOU BEST: nice, friendly, and a big wrestling fan

DREAM VACATION: Bahamas

THINGS YOU CAN DO WITHOUT: Seeing foreign objects being used in wrestling matches.

WHOM IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE DINNER WITH: Elizabeth Taylor

MOVIE YOU COULD SEE ANYTIME: "Suburban Commando"

3 THINGS THAT CAN ALWAYS BE FOUND IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR: soda, milk, ice cream

WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE: Rob Lowe

WHAT TV SHOW DO YOU NEVER MISS: Beverly Hills 90210

FAVORITE WRESTLING MOMENT: Hulk Hogan defeating Sgt. Slaughter for the WWF title at WM VII.

LETTERS TO "AR"

Scandals

This letter is in response to all of those who are ticked off about the reporting of wrestling's scandals.

While many people who watch and observe wrestling, like us, were semi-aware of the homosexuality/drug problem in the WWF, we failed to notice some of the lesser known areas or territories in wrestling. Let's look at Fritz Von Erich's World Class Wrestling. Here is a group that was full of drugs from beginning to end and being the great father Fritz was he didn't want Mike or David go to rehab because it would embarrass the "Von Erich" name. Drugs are everywhere in wrestling. From steroids to cocaine to uppers, downers, pain killers and just about everything else you could imagine. We can't point the finger at just one group when everyone else is guilty.

Homosexuality and bisexuality is more rampant in the industry than ever. Don't get me wrong, it has always been around but not as wide spread and heavy as it is now. Some of the people you'd least expect to be bi or homosexual in WCW, WWF and other groups may very well be.

In my opinion you'd be more likely to contract AIDS from a wrestler than a hooker. My first time in a dressing room I saw a female wrestler walk in and perform oral sex on three different workers while everyone watched and cheered. WCW guys have been spotted doing cocaine in bars around the country. During the great World Class days around 1986 it was reported the two top faces and two top heels all shared the same needle. Drugs, homosexuality, blading, needles, are an every day thing in our favorite sport whether we like it or not and if these acts do not cause AIDS, I don't know what does.

Should we be informed of these inside happenings or should we be kay fabe C.R.O.W.

Tom Zenk

In response to K.C. O'Connor in Volume IV, Number 17, while I agree with most of it, there was one point he wrote that was brainless. While being a fan of Tom Zenk, which nowadays for reasons unknown qualifies for a lynching, I feel that putting him with guys that should be let go and associated with the Vinnie Vegas', J.T. Southern's etc. qualifies him for the next Helen Keller award. By the way, I'm certainly not in puberty and neither are other male friends of mine. I sense some jealousy K.C. Do you think Vegas, Page, or Southern could've put on a match like Zenk did at Wrestle War with "Goldilocks Pillman"? I guess WCW aren't the only thing with "pests". Arena Report has them too.

Gary Graham
South Zanesville, OH

Just Wondering

When Klon writes about hating sheet letter writers who kiss ass and drop names, does he include his pal and stream-of-unconsciousness writer Mike Lano? I think we all know that Lano drops more names than a New York socialite. (He also kisses more ass than Ed McMahon, but I digress.)

Jeff Bowdren's point about Nikita Koloff being a boot-licker was right on the mark. Koloff can't work but is Dusty's pal.

Eric Krol
Orland Hills, IL

Steiners

I have to take exception with Mike Terry's last column in Arena Report. This is the one where he states that we the wrestling press shouldn't be critical of the Steiner Brothers for their treatment of Iizuka and Fujinami at WrestleWar '92. I, for one, was totally outraged at the way the match turned out. There is no excuse for how badly Iizuka got beaten up. I wonder how Rikki Choshu must have felt when he saw him getting off the plane with a broke face, how he felt about letting one of his young lions brutalized for no reason except to look good. It is one thing for aguy like Cactus Jack or the Nasty Boys to put their bodies on the line voluntarily to get over. It is quite another to plummet a young wrestler who is trying his damndest to keep up and have a good match. This is not the first case of the Steiners abusing their opponents either. There have been numerous reports of them injuring jobbers for their TV matches. What the Hell is with these guys? Back in '89 they were a premiere team at working with opponents, but ever since Scott got back from his injury, they have been far less than impressive OR professional. It irks me that Dusty lets them get away with this (and I really hope that the Steiners weren't encouraged by him to work stiff on the Japanese-if that's the case, then its time for WCW to go out of business) because you have to admit that Vince would never permit any of his boys to pull shit like that! Mike Terry also suggested in his column that the wrestlers in Japan are revered for working stiff. Does Mr. Terry know what working stiff means? It means throwing kicks that actually hit an opponent. It means waiting until getting hit with a clothesline before falling backwards. What it does not mean is

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lying on the mat waiting for some 275 pound goon to come flopping off the rop and cave your face in with a misguided elbow. The wrestler doing the flying move is supposed to take the bump, not the guy who's waiting on the mat. The Steiners act unprofessionally, and in a reprehensible manner.

Now, I know a lot of people will read that and think, "Well, Gordy and Williams will straighten them out." I doubt that will happen because Doc & Gordy are professionals! Even though they are the two stiffest American wrestlers around, they work a careful style, making sure their opponensts are uninjured. I don't think they would intentionally shoot on anybody, even if Bill Watts demanded it of them. Likewise, I don't think they'd take any crap from the Steiners. Everyone seems to think these guys are going to have the feud of the year. Well, they might if they cooperate. But somehow, I can't see them cooperating. It's really too bad about the Steiners, two guys with talent and charisma and a punk attitude. I hope they'll straighten up, but I won't be disappointed if they don't.

Andy Stowell
Pittsburgh, PA

I find the trend of ripping the Steiners to be absurd. They're the best team working anywhere in the world and their treated that way even in Japan. Once the arrogant smarts of this business get on your case, they don't let up and their opinions are usually copied by the want-to-be's. The Steiners are too brutal when they work hard and they clown when they take it easy on people. So name an american team that has had more good matches in the last 3 years. They get paid to work a stiff style and do the dangerous moves they perform, so the guys that step into the ring with them better be ready. It was the same way with Brody. Iizuka's career gained more from the Wrestle War match than from anything he ever did in Japan. Everyone knows and respects him now. Even the old legend Fujinami gained face by standing up to the Steiners. Rick sell for everyone and they've put Sting & Muta and Doom over in the past and will probably do a job for Williams/Gordy in the near future. It's not individual criticisms that bother me, because everyone deserves some at times, its the trends that develop and grow among the smarts that are never challenged. Hulk Hogan has had some good matches but you'll never read that in a sheet. I don't mind it when someone like JYD is locked up in this trend of thought but the Steiners are great in my mind.

I respect few more than Bowdren but Michael Hayes has been fat for a long time. Poor Freebirds worked a good match at Wrestle War but no one wanted to watch it.

We are all rooting for Watts but cancelling PPVs, discontinuing the Japar connection, supporting Dusty, and emphasizing race hasn't endeared him to Yohe. Ron Simmons might be a good choice for champ but I'd put Dustin Rhodes in the position. The guy has great in the ring talent. Making a big star out of Simmons would be a smart company move. Sting is lost and doesn't need a belt to be a money maker anyway.

Klon's comments on newsletter writers seemed to be a cheap shot. The writers for the most part are just trying to contribute and state their views. It's the editor of the sheet who is responsible for what gets printed and whether its interesting or not. Many times the editor will just print the complimentary portion of a letter or the section of a letter that supports his position. The editor can do that, its their sheet and their choice. Which is okay by me. As for egos in the sheet world, everyone has one. I, Steve Yohe, love to have my name printed. But I don't want to be used if I'm off base or uninteresting. It's the editor's job to decide.

Steve Yohe
Alhambra, CA

Beach Blast

Here are my wishes for WCW Beach Blast:

1) Gordy and Williams beat the living shit out of those two bookers babies-the Steiners. Let's see how tough the idiot brothers are when their opponensts are not forbidden from clobbering them back. There's two kinds of juice in the business, and its time that Scott Steiner gives out as much as he takes in-that spoiled over inflated sissy. And let's see his dumb brother become the Mr. Potatohead we all know he is already.

2) Cowpie Bill Watts falls and hits his head on the cement floor. Too bad there's no more rubber mats Bill! Hey, if you can't take a proper bump, get out of the business. After the show, while he is hospitalized in traction, all the heels and faces celebrate their good fortune together at the airport Holiday Inn lounge, as the marks wonder why Arn Anderson is buying Sting drink and Bill Apter takes photos for the PWI Yearbook.

3) Missy and Madusa realize that the key to their differences is that they just don't want to share me, face the camera and beg me to make real women out of them-at the same time! "Oh Butch, Eddie can't hold a candle to you!"

Butch Bigelow
Dead Dog, KY

Response To Lano

I'm glad that I promoted some response from my last letter. I would like to clear up a few things. First, I must agree with Mike Lano's reasoning on why it took people so long to come forward with the scandals. It was "Kay Fabe" and most people feared their jobs. I feel stuff like that should have stayed "Kay Fabe" from the general public. What I was trying to point out was that if the legit press would have not got a hold of these stories, than maybe we would not have to have the whole world talking about the "bad side" of wrestling.

The legit press like to write bad things about wrestling, because most consider it junk anyway. The others that wrote about the scandals just had "beefs" to settle with Titan or they just got on the bandwagon of morality.

Although I did group Dave Meltzer's name along side everyone else in my letter, I do feel he has done the best job in covering the scandals. He has tried to stay in the middle and not take sides. John Arezzi seems to be doing the same thing even though he has had his problems with the WWF.

My feelings are that it would have been better if people in the business would have refused to talk to the legit press. The press would have not then had a story to print. It would have just been printed in the Observer with no major papers covering the story. Nothing that I have read or hear, is any news to me when it comes to this business. I had one wrestler tell me "this is the sleaziest business you will ever be involved in." He was right, but I have come to accept it rather than condemn the guys for what they do. What that is right or wrong I really don't know, but has been my way of dealing with the sleazy part of the biz. You will always have your homos, guys who like young girls or boys, drug users, rapists, and then you will have your wrestlers. This business is not going to change just because of a few people. By making this sleaze public knowledge it makes it less attractive to the casual fans. And it's the casual fan that keeps wrestling on TV, not us hard-cores.

As for who are the "real" victims in all of this, well, I feel it is the fans. We have to read or watch on TV people who have no knowledge of the biz trying to make money off of what we consider sacred- wrestling. We are the victims here.

I still feel Vince is not the only one at fault here. He should not be blamed for what other people do. He is just a product of his environment and this is the sleaze of wrestling. The reason I blamed the "underground" press in the letter was primarily because I was sick of hearing about it. Dave Meltzer has made it clear that he will see this story to the end. I respect his conviction, but in turn, people should respect my opinion of not wanting to read about it anymore. I will just skip those pages.

I have very little response to Lano's stab at RIOT. I did take my time at getting refunds out to people, but everyone that has responded to last ads in AR, WON, & PWT have received their refunds. Mike received his over three months ago. I also didn't run ads because of what Mike said on his "Canvas Cavity" show, because I had no knowledge of it.

Brian Tramel
State University, AR

Random Thoughts

My apologies go out to Klon. I'll admit that I overreacted. With that out of the way here are some thoughts...First, I want to finally clear up my views on the Samoans in the WWF. Any Samoan combo besides Samu & Fatu hold no allure for me. I've never seen Kokina work so I won't comment on him. Why I think they aren't the WWF's league of team is because with the exception of The Roadies and possibly Money Inc., all teams there are stiff who rarely have a decent match...I for one am enjoying the Papa Shango "curse" angle. I'm curious as to what his role is with the black goo but it had a nice touch. The lights going out, the jobbers boots on fire, and the black goo before a recent Shango match was great. Ditto for the Kevin "Convict" Kelly attacking Boss Man after Bubba's match on the same show. It doesn't surprise me that Kelly wears a bodysuit...What happened to Scott Levy having a manly name like Scott Anthony? Scotty Flamingo? I like Scotty, but the name has to go.... Bob Cook deserved a break. Hope he gets a push. Instead of Cruz, what about bringing in Chris Duffy, Ned Brady, or Cliff Anderson as his partner. Any of those three would be a better choice than Cruz.

John Harron
Marble Hill, MO

RL- The Cook & Cruz teams under hoods has been scrapped since Watts came in.

Highly amusing to me. Various and many "smart" fans and editors started screaming for the removal of Ole Anderson about 5 weeks into his last stint as WCW booker, all the while begging for Bill Watts. Bill comes in and is heralded as a saviour. First moves? Bringing back Ole and instituting rules to put wrestling back to the 70's or early 80's. Drive away the Japanese, cut TV time, reduce PPVs, hell of a way to run a local territory no?.....

Here's a bold prediction. Smoky Mountain will be the number 2 promotion in North America in about a year or 18 months. Anyone who thinks anything other than WWF will be #1 either lives in North Carolina or writes for the Torch. (Or both)....I kind of equate the scandal coverage to the way the Steiners wrestle. The big tough Steiner nuts take a couple of opponents and kick the living crap out of them. Some sheets took these allegations and beat them into the dirt and then kept kicking. I honestly don't think it was a necessity for various former Titan employees to come forward for the sheets to discuss this matter. Hell, way back when I was a total mark I heard stories about "casting couch type" practices. Meltzer has admitted to being aware of the dangers of steroids as far back as 1984 or so.

Rodney Leighton

Pugwash, Nova Scotia

(continued from page 2)

but I still enjoy Bob Caudle....What doesn't belong in the following group: Papa Shango, Ultimate Warrior, voodoo, steroid abuse, Bob Backlund, sexual harassment. If you guessed Bob Backlund you're right. But Backlund was in Vince's office for two days last week discussing a possible return. The wackiest rumor about the meeting that the Roadies doll "Freckles" will have something to do with Bob's return. I don't buy that one....Col. Mustafa was fired because he stuffed a bag of marijuana in John Nord's (Berzerker) bag before they left Canada after the tapings. Nord found it ruffling through his bag before going through customs. Vince told Sheik he'd never wrestle for the WWF again. We know what never means in the wrestling business.... In the "As The Mat Turns" department: Elizabeth has been hanging with Mrs. Bollea and it seems her break up with Randy has to do with him being over protective. She doesn't want the house or any property, just a lot of cash and him out of her life. What happened to that storybook romance?....ICWA runs the Golden Nugget Flea Market on 6/20 with Terminators vs. Star Riders on top plus get this, a junior heavyweight title bout with Denny Brown vs. Tony Mella. Anyone who knows what Mella looks like will laugh at this "junior" heavy title....Bad Boys from the IWF currently on a tour in Puerto Rico. I should say formerly with the IWF....Speaking of which, the IWF now claiming to be taping at Universal Studios on the 4th of July. Depending on which repo you believe, Eddy Mansfield will wrestle on the next Winter Haven card (plugge him as working on the local TV) or be the guest ref for a Cliff Anderson-Al Hardiman bout where he takes a shot from Anderson and strips him of the bel He then sets up a tourney for the next month with the winner getting the TV title which Mansfield will win. Either way, it looks like Eddy is coming out of retirement....Doesn't look like that Rude-Steamboat bout at Beach Blast will be the blow off to the feud as they're booked at house shows after it with each other....One interesting bout in Topeka on 6/26 has Gordy & William facing the Freebirds so Gordy will work with his ex-partners....Talk in the office is that Bill Watts wants to go with Ron Simmons as the long term champ. He would have someone else beat Sting on an interim basis until he felt Ron was ready. I don't know if that would work. Look how much they pushed him for last years Havoc card and he still really wasn't over. He's a hell of a worker but is lacking something....How come it doesn't sound like Watts talking with all these new rules. Hell, that was the UWF that Watts ran wasn't it? He always used ringposts and out of the ring brawls. As much as I hate it I have to agree with his no blood rule. In this day and age, that rule is more important to me than a steroid testing policy because by blading you can hurt other people. By doing steroids you're just hurting yourself.... The man who is quickly becoming every tape collectors' fave person C.R.O.W. has the 5/92 FMW show from California (best raw footage quality he's ever seen) a new 2 hour Jushin Liger tape vs. Hase in a great 30 minute match, plus other Liger bouts, and a Smoky Mountain #2 4 hour tape. \$19.00 bucks for the Smoky Mountain (\$16.00 each for the other two) or all 3 for \$45.00. Write him at P.O. Box 1712, Henderson, KY 42420....For those of you who haven't ordered Evan Ginzburg's special project, The Territories, check it out. If you love clippings and line up sheets from the past, this is a great buy. Send \$7.00 to Evan at P.O. Box 471, Oakland Gardens Station, Flushing, NY 11364. That's it for this issue. We'll see you back here in two weeks. Marianne Ryan's column may not appear this ish as her number has been disconnected and I haven't been able to confirm a column will be at my fax tomorrow. Okay Lance, what did you do with her? See ya gang,

Ron